

CLAIMS

1. Microcircuit card (100) including means (RX) for receiving a command (200) and means for modifying at least one characteristic of the performance of said card on reception of said command, the modification means being characterized in that they can be used after a step (E10) of customization of said card.

2. Microcircuit card according to claim 1, characterized in that it further comprises means for authenticating the sender of said command (200).

3. Microcircuit card according to claim 2, characterized in that the authenticating means comprise a secret authentication key.

4. Microcircuit card according to any one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the modification means are adapted to determine said at least one performance characteristic as a function of a predetermined instruction (210) received in said command (200).

5. Microcircuit card according to any one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that said receiver means (RX) are adapted to receive said command (200) in accordance with an SMS protocol.

6. Microcircuit card according to any one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that said means for modification of at least one performance characteristic are adapted to modify the size of a usable area (110) of a physical memory (EEPROM) of said card.

7. Microcircuit card according to claim 6, characterized in that said modification of the size of a usable area (110) of a physical memory (EEPROM) is effected by creating, destroying at least one specific file (VOID\_FILE) or by modifying the size of at least one specific file (VOID\_FILE) comprised in said physical memory.

8. Microcircuit card according to any one of

claims 1 to 7, characterized in that said means for modification of at least one performance characteristic are adapted to modify a clock frequency of said card, reversibly or not.

5           9. Microcircuit card according to any one of claims 1 to 8, characterized in that said means for modification of at least one performance characteristic are adapted to allow or prevent the use of at least one software function (f) of said card, reversibly or not.

10           10. Microcircuit card according to any one of claims 1 to 9, characterized in that said means for modification of at least one performance characteristic are adapted to allow or prevent the use of all or part of an electronic circuit (120) of said card, reversibly or not.

15           11. Microcircuit card according to claim 10, characterized in that said electronic circuit (120) is a cryptographic unit.

20           12. Microcircuit card according to any one of claims 1 to 11, characterized in that it further comprises synchronization means (130) adapted to verify that said command (200) is unique.

          13. Method of configuring a microcircuit card (100) characterized in that it comprises the following successive steps:

25           - customization (E10) of said card;  
          - reception (E20) of a command (200); and  
          - modification (E40, E60, E70, E80) of at least one characteristic of the performance of the card on reception of said command (200).

30           14. Method of configuring according to claim 13, characterized in that said reception step (E20) is followed by a step (E30) of authentication of the sender of said command (200).

35           15. Method of configuring according to claim 13 or claim 14, characterized in that, during said modification

step (E40, E60, E70, E80), said at least one performance characteristic is determined as a function of a predetermined instruction (210) received in said command (200).

5           16. Method of configuring according to any one of claims 13 to 15, characterized in that said step (E20) of reception of a command (200) conforms to an SMS protocol.

10           17. Method of configuring according to any one of claims 13 to 16, characterized in that, during said step (E40) of modification of at least one performance characteristic, the size of a usable area (110) of a physical memory (EEPROM) of said card is modified.

15           18. Method of configuring according to claim 17, characterized in that during said modification of the size of a usable area (110) of a physical memory (EEPROM) at least one specific file (VOID\_FILE) included in said physical memory is created, or destroyed or the size of at least one specific file (VOID\_FILE) included in said physical memory is modified..

20           19. Method of configuring to any one of claims 13 to 18, characterized in that, during said step (E60) of modification of at least one performance characteristic, a clock frequency of said card is modified, reversibly or not.

25           20. Method of configuring according to any one of claims 13 to 19, characterized in that, during said step (E70) of modification of at least one performance characteristic, the use of at least one software function (f) of said card is allowed or prevented, reversibly or  
30 not.

35           21. Method of configuring according to any one of claims 13 to 20, characterized in that, during said step (E80) of modification of at least one performance characteristic, the use of all or part of an electronic circuit (120) of said card is allowed or prevented,

reversibly or not.

22. Method of configuring according to claim 21, characterized in that said electronic component (120) is a cryptographic unit.

5        23. Method of configuring according to any one of claims 13 to 22, characterized in that it comprises, before said step (E40) of modification of at least one performance characteristic, a step (E35) of verification that said command (200) is unique.